

CLAIMS

1. A method of sterilising one or more radioactive seeds, which method comprises subjecting the radioactive seeds to dry heat for a time
5 sufficient to effect sterilisation, and cooling the radioactive seeds.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the temperature is 150 to 200 °C.
- 10 3. The method of claims 1 or 2, wherein the temperature is at least 160 °C.
4. The method of claims 1 to 3, wherein the radioactive seeds are loose.
- 15 5. The method of claims 1 to 4, wherein the radioactive seeds are in a closed container.
6. The method of claim 5, wherein the closed container is a
20 vessel having a removable gas-impermeable closure.
7. The method of claim 5 or claim 6, wherein the closed container carries during sterilisation a label or marker indicating the contents of the closed container.
- 25 8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein a plurality of containers of radioactive seeds, comprising the same or different numbers of radioactive seeds, are sterilised together.
- 30 9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the radioactive seeds comprise ^{125}I -radioiodine or ^{103}Pd -palladium.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the radioactive seeds are free of moisture.
- 5 11. The method of any one of claims 1 to 10, where the seeds are echogenic.
12. A product comprising one or more radioactive seeds in a sterile condition, prepared by a dry heat sterilisation process.
- 10 13. The product of claim 12, where the radioactive seeds are in a closed container.
14. A product comprising a closed container containing one or
15 more radioactive seeds in a sterile condition, wherein the radioactive seeds are free of moisture and of chemical residues characteristic of chemical sterilisation, and wherein the product is free of degradation characteristic of sterilisation by gamma irradiation.
- 20 15. The product of claims 12 to 14, wherein the closed container carries a marker or label giving details of the contents.
16. The product of any one of claims 12 to 15, wherein the closed container is a vessel having a removable gas-impermeable closure.
- 25 17. The product of claim 16, wherein the vessel is of glass and the removable gas-impermeable closure comprises silicone.
18. The product of any one of claims 12 to 17, wherein the dose
30 distribution of each radioactive seed is substantially isotropic.

19. The product of any one of claims 12 to 18 wherein the radioactive seeds comprise ^{125}I -radioiodine or ^{103}Pd -palladium.

20. The product of any one of claims 12 to 19 wherein the seeds
5 are echogenic.